

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)
Assistant to the Democratic Leader
Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.
October 11, 2002 – For Immediate Release
Contact: Chuck Fant, 202-225-5501

Congress Approves \$6.8 Million for Shaw AFB

WASHINGTON – The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have given final approval to legislation that includes \$6.8 million for new aircraft maintenance facilities at Shaw Air Force Base, according to U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC).

Funding for the badly needed facilities was not included in the President's request for the fiscal year that began October 1st, but was added to the House-passed Military Construction Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2003 at Spratt's request. With urging from Spratt and assistance from Sen. Fritz Hollings (D-SC), the Senate agreed to the funding as well. Final approval came in the House late Thursday night, and in the Senate earlier today. The \$6.8 million is earmarked for three new aircraft maintenance facilities to serve the 20th Fighter Wing.

"The existing aircraft maintenance facilities at Shaw date back to 1959, and have been modified several times," said Spratt. "The result is old buildings, with inefficient layouts, that do not meet Air Force standards. The new fighter squadron maintenance facilities will provide better work space, better office space, and better storage space."

Spratt said the new buildings will be located at the north end of the base, and cover more nearly 10,000 square feet. "These are basic buildings," said Spratt, "but Shaw officials put them at the top of their list of construction needs, and I was happy to go to bat for them."

Spratt said all that remains for the funds to be made available is for the President to sign the military construction spending bill, which is expected soon.

#